

In the Claims

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims are set forth below, whether or not an amendment is made. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for amending information in a relational database system, the method comprising:

determining whether an instruction or operation adds an information entry to or removes the information entry from a relational database system, wherein for an add entry operation, the information entry is first added to an 'out' table in the relational database system, [[and]] wherein for a remove entry operation, the information entry is first removed from an 'in' table in the relational database system, wherein the 'in' table provides, during a search, an initial information entry identifier, and wherein the 'out' table provides a result of the search using the initial information entry identifier; and

~~employing the instruction or operation to amend~~ amending the information entry in the relational database system by employing the instruction or operation. ~~;~~ ~~and~~

~~preventing the amended information entry from being searchable until at least the 'in' table includes the amended information entry.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information entry is added to the 'in' table after being added to the 'out' table.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information entry is removed from the 'out' table after being removed from the 'in' table.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising performing one entry operation of the plurality of add and remove entry operations if the instruction or operation is determined to be part of the modify entry instruction.

5. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the instructions are implemented via a directory system such as X.500 or LDAP.

Claims 6-10 (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A system for amending information in a relational database system, the system including:

a database using a plurality of tables, each table having a plurality of rows and columns, and storing arbitrary data;

a computer-readable medium;

means, encoded in the computer-readable medium, for processing an instruction or operation by determining whether the instruction or operation adds an information entry or removes the information entry from a relational database system, wherein for an add entry operation, the information entry is first added to [[the]] an 'out' table in the relational database system, [[and]] wherein for a remove entry operation, the information entry is first removed from [[the]] an 'in' table in the relational database system, wherein the 'in' table provides, during a search, an initial information entry identifier, and wherein the 'out' table provides a result of the search using the initial information entry identifier; and

means, encoded in the computer-readable medium, for ~~employing the instruction or operation to amend~~ amending the information entry of [[a]] the relational database system by employing the instruction or operation; and

~~means for preventing the amended information entry from being searchable until at least the 'in' table includes the amended information entry.~~

12. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 11 being a directory services system such as X.500 or LDAP.

Claims 13 - 14 (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising using the 'out' table to retrieve a result of the search of the 'in' table.

16. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 11, further including means for using the 'out' table to retrieve a result of the search of the 'in' table.

17. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising ~~wherein~~ preventing the amended information entry from being searchable until at least the 'in' table includes the amended information entry ~~comprises always preventing the amended information entry from being searchable until at least the 'in' table includes the amended information entry.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 11, further including ~~wherein~~ the means for preventing the amended information entry from being searchable until at least the 'in' table includes the amended information entry ~~comprises means for always preventing the amended information entry from being searchable until at least the 'in' table includes the amended information entry.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 1~~ claim 17, wherein only the amended information entry is prevented from being searchable until at least the 'in' table includes the amended information entry.

20. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in ~~claim 11~~ claim 18, wherein only the amended information entry is prevented from being searchable until at least the 'in' table includes the amended information entry.

21. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 1~~ claim 17, wherein preventing the amended information entry from being searchable until at least the 'in' table includes the amended information entry comprises making the amended information entry non-visible until at least the 'in' table includes the amended information entry.

22. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in ~~claim 1~~ claim 18, wherein the means for preventing the amended information entry from being searchable until at least the 'in' table includes the amended information entry comprises means for making the amended information entry non-visible until at least the 'in' table includes the amended information entry.